
JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, November 22, 2016

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The next Japan Media Highlights alert will appear on Monday, November 28, 2016.

HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks led with extensive reports on an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.4 that struck Fukushima Prefecture this morning, saying that tsunami as high as 1.4 meters hit Sendai Port in Miyagi Prefecture. The networks said the quake temporarily disrupted a nuclear fuel cooling system at the Fukushima Daini Nuclear Power Plant and transportation systems in the region. The Japan Meteorological Agency announced that the quake was an aftershock of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga reportedly stated at a press conference that two people suffered minor injuries.



ECONOMY

Trump says U.S. to withdraw from TPP on his first day in office

Most broadcasters reported that President-elect Trump released a video message on Monday in which he said that on the same day he takes office on Jan. 20 he will issue a notice of intent to withdraw from the TPP, which he called a "potential disaster for our country." "Instead, we will negotiate fair, bilateral trade deals that bring jobs and industry back onto American shores," he added.

On this development, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga said this morning: "We should not prejudge the [U.S.] policies to be implemented after the inauguration.... As the Obama administration is still in office, we would like to continue to press the U.S. and other signatories to wrap up their domestic procedures quickly."

The TV networks also took up a press conference in Argentina on Monday by Prime Minister Abe, who pledged that his administration will make additional efforts to complete domestic procedures swiftly to accede to the TPP and urged the U.S. and other member nations to do the same. On the regional free trade pact, Abe said: "All the TPP members must renew their awareness that a free and open economy is the foundation for peace and prosperity. The TPP represents a bold initiative to create a free and fair economic zone in the Pacific.... It is meaningless without U.S. participation."

PM Abe says TPP without U.S. would be "meaningless"

TBS reported at noon that PM Abe said during a press conference on Monday in Argentina that "the TPP would be meaningless without the U.S. The fundamental balance of interests would be lost." NHK also quoted the premier as saying: "Following the U.S. presidential election, no country has tried to delay or suspend the domestic process." He also pledged to make an all-out effort to obtain parliamentary approval and take every opportunity to urge other member states to complete their domestic procedures.

TBS also said the premier stressed that Japan's position on the Northern Territories remains the same, but that the development of the Northern Territories should be implemented "in a win-win manner" for both countries. The premier also stressed the need to proceed with the peace treaty talks with Russia in a way that brings economic and other benefits to the bilateral relationship. The network said PM Abe will return to Japan on Nov. 23.

TPP minister expresses resolve to obtain approval for TPP during current Diet session

TBS reported at noon that following President-elect Trump's announcement that the U.S. will withdraw from the TPP on his first day in office, TPP Minister Ishihara told reporters this morning

that the GOJ will seek Diet approval for the TPP during the current session. He said: "If we stop taking the lead and building momentum [towards the effectuation of the TPP] now, the deal will definitely be derailed. When considering the future, I don't think we can pause."

- [Efforts to form Asia-Pacific free trade zone at the crossroads](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Don't allow TPP trade agreement to be sent back to drawing board](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: A preposterous proposal on nuclear accident compensation](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Anti-global warming measures provide business opportunities to Japanese companies](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan business lobby seeks relaxed rules on foreign worker training](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SECURITY

[USS Ronald Reagan returns to Yokosuka Naval Base](#)

Mainichi reported online that the USS Ronald Reagan arrived at Yokosuka yesterday after completing a three-month cruise in Asia and the Western Pacific. The CVN took part in several naval exercises, including Keen Sword 2017 off the Philippines. Commander Charles Williams of Task Force 70 told the press upon arrival that U.S.-Japan relations and the bonds between the USN and the MSDF will not change even under the incoming Trump administration. The admiral emphasized that the two navies have maintained strong bonds through joint and integrated training exercises.

- [MSDF to downsize anti-piracy operations off Somalia](#) (Asahi)

INTERNATIONAL

[Abe comments on summit with Putin](#)

NHK reported online that during a press availability in Buenos Aires on Monday, PM Abe commented on his recent meeting with Russian President Putin in Lima by saying: "Concluding a peace treaty with Russia will not be easy. I would like to steadily take one step at a time based on my relationship of trust with President Putin." As for the Russian leader's proposal on starting "joint economic activities" on the disputed four islands off Hokkaido, the premier said: "Nothing is more important than both Russia and Japan pursuing the development of the Northern Territories in a win-win manner. I think it is necessary to achieve progress on peace treaty negotiations by developing the islands economically in a mutually beneficial manner."

Park rejected idea of extending comfort women talks with Japan

Nikkei reported online from Seoul on a local media report that before the Japanese and the ROK government signed the comfort women agreement about a year ago, President Park dismissed a proposal from her own foreign minister on extending talks with Japan by an additional three months to seek a better deal for South Korea. According to the daily, this episode shows that Foreign Minister Yun was opposed to the accord.

Cabinets of Japan, ROK endorse bilateral defense intelligence accord

Most papers reported online that the Japanese and the South Korean governments both approved a bilateral general security of military information agreement (GSOMIA) this morning for signing in Seoul on Wednesday. The pact will enable the militaries of the two partners to share high-level defense intelligence in a more timely manner so as to counter North Korea's provocations.

- [**Ruling, opposition parties maneuvering over territorial issue before Putin visit**](#) (Asahi)
- [**Tokyo to gauge Moscow's true intention concerning Putin's proposal on joint economic activities**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**Editorial: Optimism not warranted regarding progress on northern territories issue**](#) (The Japan News)
- [**Japan to form \\$900m investment fund with Russia**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Opinion: Economic cooperation with Russia calls for sweetener for Japanese business**](#) (Mainichi)
- [**Former Assistant Secretary of Defense Nye: Importance of Japan-U.S. alliance evident**](#) (Sankei)
- [**Abe, Xi to keep working on bilateral ties**](#) (The Japan News)
- [**Editorial: Int'l community should persuade Trump to respect Paris Agreement**](#) (The Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [**Prime minister's schedule on November 20–21**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**Cabinet endorses written reply saying Tsuruho doesn't need to apologize for "dojin" comment**](#) (Asahi)

SCIENCE

- [Anti-nuclear group Pugwash Japan to hold first general meeting on Nov. 27](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

EDUCATION

- [Over 60% of younger faculty members of national universities non-tenured](#) (Asahi)

SOCIETY

- [Ibaraki woman arrested for dispatching missing TITP trainees as factory workers](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)

OPINION POLLS

- [56% opposed to decision to assign “rush to the rescue” missions to SDF personnel, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)
- [Almost half say abdication talks should proceed with caution, Nihon Yoron Chosakai poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

TV PROGRAMS

Internet adoption services

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Monday evening reported on new adoption services available on the Internet, saying that most of the mothers who give up their babies are single and face financial difficulties. The program focused on an NPO in Osaka which has been matching babies with couples for the last two years, adding that the NPO uses social media and arranges adoptions faster than existing organizations. However, there is growing criticism that the NPO is actually facilitating human trafficking. The program reported that the reason behind the popularity of these new adoption services is that the existing process takes an extremely long time.

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